

MICHIGAN DEMOCRATS *for* EDUCATION REFORM

Michigan Should Stick with Common Core

Michigan should stick with the Common Core State Standards (Common Core) that guide our state's education system, despite the fact that there have been some voices ahead of this week's House Education Committee hearing calling for the state to revoke unjustifiably Michigan's participation in the standards.

Rescinding Michigan's participation would hurt our students, leaving them unprepared for success in college and the workforce, and reducing their ability to compete against children from the 44 other states that voluntarily adopted Common Core, especially as the ACT and SAT move to align with these standards.

Common Core was developed in collaboration with education leaders in Michigan and other states to provide clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and work, while allowing for state-by-state flexibility. A state-led effort, Common Core enjoys strong bipartisan support nationwide, including groups as diverse as two national teachers' unions—the American Federation of Teachers and National Education Association—The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and [Thomas B. Fordham Institute](#).

Common Core benefits teachers and administrators by establishing benchmarks that empower teachers to work collaboratively to develop effective teaching methods. Common Core's fewer and clearer standards mean teachers will have more time to teach, which means that students will learn subjects more deeply. And because Common Core is a set of standards – not a curriculum – it does not tell local schools and teachers how to best educate their students, those decisions will remain as they should, with local schools.

The standards enable Michigan to compare student achievement across state and international lines, providing a benchmark for success and preparing our students for the modern, globally integrated working world. On a more local level, Common Core is based on the needs of our current workforce, and, as such, tracking against its guidelines allows Michigan to attract higher-paying jobs, which in turn leads to stronger economic growth.

Students and teachers benefit greatly from Common Core because it enables them to dig deeper into a small number of key topics and theories within each subject, making for a more engaging learning environment that yields a longer lasting understanding of the material. Its standards and assessments are designed to test comprehension as opposed to memorization, promoting deep understanding and mastery instead of rote, test-day recitation. There's no substitute for in-depth, hands-on learning that sticks.

If we want to prepare Michigan students for college and work as engaged learners, then Michiganders must stand up in support of Common Core. If we want more resources, time to teach, and opportunities to focus on specific subjects for our teachers then we must support Common Core. If we want clear standards that provide a sense of confidence in our children's futures for Michigan parents, then we must support Common Core. An incredible amount of thought and research went into structuring Common Core. Our students' futures depend on Michigan implementing Common Core.

As Americans, we are at our best when we come together to achieve something really big, think man-on-the-moon big. American students are no longer amongst the world's top performers. In fact, we rank 27th as a nation. We don't need to settle for this. We need an education moon-shot and Common Core is an intelligent, nonpartisan way to help us get there.

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